

REPORT

01

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 8th August 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	CALCUTTA.	5,000		
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	1st August, 1896.	Temporarily discontinued from May, 1896.
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	4th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	31st July, 1896.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar"	Ditto	2,500	1st August, 1896.	
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....	1st ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	29th July, 1896.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	31st ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	1st August, 1896.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	3rd ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	About 350	31st July, and 1st and 3rd to 5th August, 1896.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrokika."	Ditto	1,000	2nd to 6th August, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	3rd August, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200	31st July, and 1st, 3rd and 4th August, 1896.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	30th July, and 1st and 3rd to 6th August, 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	30th July, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	3rd August, 1896.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000		
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....	27th July, 1896.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	30th July, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	330		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	450	1st August, 1896	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria	700		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan	About 250	28th July, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha"	Chinsura	550	2nd August, 1896.	
3	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,145	31st July, 1896.	
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Ghosak"	Khulna	350		
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi"	Murshidabad	826	29th July, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar"	Ditto	603	31st ditto.	
	URIYA.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Brahma"	Cuttack	160		
2	"Indradhanu"	Ditto	.....	
3	"Shikshabandhu"	Ditto	.....	
4	"Utkalprabha"	Mayurbhunj	.....	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini"	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	3rd June, 1896.	
2	"Samvad Vahika"	Balasore	190	4th and 11th June, 1896.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad"	Ditto	309	3rd and 10th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika"	Cuttack	480	6th and 13th ditto.	
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipur	500		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta"	Dinapur	1,000		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch"	Bankipur	500		
2	"Gaya Punch"...	Gaya	400	27th July,	Temporarily discontinued from 15th May, 1896.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
BENGALI.						
<i>Weekly.</i>						
		RAJSHAHI DIVISION.				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	29th July, 1896.		
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180			
HINDI.						
<i>Monthly.</i>						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	600	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
BENGALI.						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244	29th July, 1896.		
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	27th July, 1896.		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	2nd August, 1896.		
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440			
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	240	30th July, 1896.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	3rd August, 1896.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>						
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700			
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120			
BENGALI.						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>						
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....		
ASSAM.						

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE Sahachar of the 29th July says that it is clear from Lord George Hamilton's despatch on the cost of the Suakim troops that, failing to meet the strong arguments urged by Lord Elgin, the Secretary of State has

The cost of the Suakim contingent.

attempted only to throw dust in the eyes of the public. In the discussion which took place in Parliament on this subject, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, too, plainly said that the Government of India had no independence of its own, but was bound to carry out the orders of the Secretary of State; that however strong might be the arguments which it brought forward in support of its case, the Secretary of State had an absolute option in exercising his right of veto. What is the public opinion of India worth, when the opinions of the Government of India itself can be thus slighted by the Home Government? After this, it is clear that there is no necessity of keeping up the show of a Supreme Government in this country. The Secretary of State should rule it from England, with the assistance of the Local Governments. Such an arrangement would save India much money. The late Mr. Bright held the same view, though for different reasons.

2. **The Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika** of the 3rd August understands that the Maharaja of Vizianagram has offered a lakh of rupees towards the expenses of the Suakim expedition, as if by way of protesting against the Madras agitation against the decision of Parliament in this matter. Let the Maharaja pay many more lakhs of rupees for the same purpose if he can afford to spare them. But why this demonstrative loyalty and this gratuitous protest against Indian public opinion? Has the Maharaja made it a point always to go against the country? Is he making amends for his miserable failure to get up a statue of Sir Charles Elliott or is his offer meant as a mark of respect for Lord Lansdowne, the present Secretary for War? The shrewd English nation, however, can dive into the heart of a man and discover the real nature of his motives. Is the Maharaja the only loyal subject of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress? Is he more loyal than the English Liberals and Radicals and Tories like Mr. Maclean and Sir Andrew Scoble? Does he pretend to be much more loyal than the Governor-General and his Council? The Maharaja's loyalty has gone too far. But too much even of a good thing is bad.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. **The Hitavadi** of the 31st July gives the following case, on the authority of a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. One Ujir Ali, a resident of Sitagar, within the Bahadur Jang thana, in the Purnea district,

The police in a case in the Purnea district.

having complained that the Fanridar's men had burnt down his house, and otherwise greatly oppressed him, the Subdivisional Officer ordered a police enquiry. This was a case against the police, and yet the police was entrusted with its investigation. The police reported the complaint as false, and on the strength of this report, the Subdivisional Officer passed the following order on the 11th July last:—"The case is false. Ujir Ali shall be prosecuted for giving false information. The case against Ujir Ali will be tried on the 3rd August. The other party should be present with their witnesses that day." Nothing was said in this order about keeping Ujir Ali in *hajat*. Yet, strangely enough, as soon as the order was passed, Ujir Ali was arrested and confined in *hajat*. The day Ujir Ali was put in *hajat*, his servant, Gukhu, applied for his release on bail. The prayer was granted, and Ujir was ordered to be released on a bail of one hundred rupees. Bail was offered, but Ujir was not released that day. He was released two days afterwards—on the 13th. The authorities are requested to enquire into the matter.

4. The same paper writes as follows:—

A gate keeper killed by an Englishman, near Pakour. We know nothing whatever of the real facts in connection with the case related in the letter published below. We could not, however, restrain our tears as we read the letter.

SAHACHAR,
July 29th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 3rd, 1896.

HITAVADI,
July 31st, 1896.

HITAVADI.

To the Editor of the *Hitavadi*—

Everybody knows what trouble you take to help the poor, to serve the country, to put down oppression and to redress wrongs. I am very poor, and have none but you to help me. I firmly believe that you will lay me under an eternal obligation by giving my appeal a place in your paper.

Indians, I am very poor and unfortunate. If I do not ask you for help to-day, there is none else to help me. Do not despise me as a Musalman. We are two children of the same mother. An Englishman has killed my poor father. Will not justice be done? I am poor; I have none to support my cause. An Englishman is a member of the dominant race. But will he escape with impunity on that account? Indians! When I have you to help me, why should I fear?

On the 23rd July 1896, at about 11 o'clock, the Assistant, Public Works Department Inspector of Pakour, named Lea, hurt my father so severely that he died the next morning. My father's name was Dalali Miya. He was the gate-keeper of Bahargram, a village situated at a distance of a *kos* and-a-half from Pakour. It has not yet been ascertained why the Englishman beat my father, for no trial has yet been held. The dead body was sent on the 29th to the Civil Surgeon of Bhagalpur for examination. An examination was made, but the result is yet unknown.

I earn five rupees a month. The Englishman earns much. An Englishman having killed a man, many Englishmen are anxious to help him. But who will help me? Indians! I have none but you. I beseech every one of you, with joined hands, to help me with money at this emergency, and thereby to have the offender condignly punished.

PATASI MIYA,

Khalasi, Pakour godown.

We know nothing as to whether this was only an accident or act deliberately done; whether it was due to anger or to destiny. But we can assure Patasi Miya that if it was oppression, and he seeks redress, help he shall not want for. We hope that the respectable public of Pakour will be up and doing in the matter. No efforts will also be wanting, on our part, to render help if our help is required.

5. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of

Thefts at Bagirhat in the Khulna district. He also reports dacoities on the Bhairab.

HITAVADI,
July 31st, 1896.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 2nd, 1896.

6. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st August says that one of the three little children whom Kamini, wife of Nader Chand Khasia, of Chuamasina, in the Bankura district, left behind her, when she was fraudulently sent up as a cooly, died the other day of grief for his mother, and one more of the boys is likely to share the same fate.

7. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 2nd August asks the Lieutenant-Governor to order the police to allow the use of Government elephants for the Dacca Janmashtami procession. The District Superintendent of Police did not allow such elephants to be so used last year, and thereby robbed the ceremony of its chief attraction. Mr. Orr also offended the Nawabpur people by insulting Babu Priyanath Basak.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 27th, 1896.

8. The *Charu Mihir* of the 27th July says that Mr. Lee, the new Officiating Judge of Mymensingh, has discontinued the practice of sending for the pleaders engaged in a case when it is called on for hearing, and requires the pleaders to watch when their cases will be called on; and, on their non-appearance, sends for the parties and dismisses the cases. Whilst this practice is calculated to benefit nobody, it will seriously inconvenience the pleaders.

In a murder case, Mr. Lee disagreed with the assessors, and passed capital sentence within half-an-hour after the hearing was over. Such extraordinary despatch in the disposal of a murder case is seldom seen. He characterized

the opinion of the assessors as "absurd and positively perverse." Mr. Lee is a young man who has been suddenly raised to a District Judgeship from a Joint-Magistracy. It will take him a long time to gain experience in judicial administration. It is hoped that the High Court, before which the case is going to be taken in appeal, will express itself about the propriety or otherwise of the Sessions Judge's remarks upon the assessors.

9. A correspondent of the same paper says that, in violation of Government circulars and resolutions, Babu Krishna Kisor Civil Court appointments in the Mymensingh district. Basak, Sharistadar of the Mymensingh Judge's Court, appointed Babu Iswar Datta as nazir in

Sherpur, and Jehaer Ali Sarkar as muharrir in the Atia Munsif's Court, although both these men were ignorant of English, and had been serving only as additional Civil Court amans. He also appointed the other day one Jagat Chandra Chaudhuri, a muharrir, who does not know English, as nazir of the Netrakona Munsifi, although Jagat had been serving in the grade of Rs. 20 to Rs. 30, and there were other officers, senior to him, who were in the grade of Rs. 20 to Rs. 40.

Krishna Kisor Babu appoints as apprentices men who have not passed the Entrance examination, and even those who are over 30 years of age or have been dismissed from Government service for misconduct. Most of the apprentices, who have been appointed under him, read up to the third or fourth class of an Entrance school, and there are some who come straight from the pathsala.

10. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th July writes as follows :—

The enticement case in the last High Court Sessions.

Now-a days the English officials everywhere show partiality to the Musalmans. Not even the administration of justice is free from this taint.

Take, for instance, the punishment which has been inflicted in the High Court Sessions upon Abdul Gani and his two accomplices, who enticed away a Hindu girl for immoral purposes. The jury found the prisoners guilty. But the Chief Justice, who sat at the sessions, after full consideration, sentenced each of the accused to only six months' imprisonment. Was not this punishment too light for the offence committed? Would the accused have been so lightly punished if they had been Hindus? Did not the Judge, at the time of inflicting this inadequate sentence, call up before his mind the pitiful figure of the virtuous Hindu girl, whose life has been marred? The wretches who have brought her to this condition will come back to their homes after six months. But she, poor creature, will never be taken back into her family or society. Such is the justice which has been dispensed by a civilised Judge. But it does not become us, as a subject people, to comment upon it.

11. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 30th July says that the *hakims* in the North-

Executive and Judicial administration in the North-Western Provinces.

Western Provinces are, as a class, very careless in the discharge of their duties. The police of the province, notorious as it is for its oppressive conduct, is taking advantage of the laxity in the executive administration to commit all sorts of mischievous acts. Tahsildars do not hesitate to disgrace any respectable citizen at the instigation of a *budmash*. The administration of justice, too, fares no better. Judicial officers are often seen to decide suits in favour of the parties who can offer handsome bribes. It is hoped that Sir Antony MacDonnell will place the matter on a better footing in the province under his charge.

12. The *Hitavadi* of the 31st July says that Mr. Radice has given a fresh proof of his judicial acumen. An unfortunate,

Mr. Radice again.

named Bidhu, complained before him that one

Mr. Mason, a Sub-Manager under the Maharaja of Tippera, in whose keeping she was, was refusing to restore to her ornaments worth Rs. 131 which she had kept with him, and that Mr. Mason had also beaten her. Without any enquiry whatever, and without even issuing a summons against Mr. Mason, Mr. Radice dismissed the case as a suspicious one, remarking that Mr. Mason himself had given the woman the ornaments and had now taken them back from her. Bidhu appealed to the Sessions Judge, who passed the following order :—"The case ought to have been carefully enquired into. The District Magistrate's action is illegal. The District Magistrate should either investigate the case himself or get

CHARU MIHIR,
July 27th, 1896.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
July 29th, 1896.

BHARAT MITRA,
July 30th, 1896.

HITAVADI,
July 31st, 1896.

a Subordinate Magistrate to investigate it." It is not right that merely because the woman is an unfortunate she should not be able to recover her own property, or that her case should not be heard. If the accused, in the present case, had been any other than an Englishman, a thing like this would not have happened. It will be a thing to be glad of if the Lieutenant-Governor's attention is now directed to the novel judicial procedure of the notorious Mr. Radice.

PRATIKAR,
July 31st, 1896.

BANKURA DARPARAN,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

BANKURA DARPARAN.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

SANJIVANI.

13. The *Pratikar* of the 31st July regrets to find that Mr. A. C. Mitra, First Munsif of Berhampur, has not mended his ways after so much writing against him, but continues as dilatory in his habits as before. He ought

to consider to what inconvenience he is putting large numbers of men.

14. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st August warns certain hakims of Bankura who are in the habit of vulgarly abusing witnesses.

15. The same paper says that though the Collector of Bankura has ordered that no fees or allowances should henceforward be paid to the road-cess amla, for bringing road-cess papers for attestation in Civil Courts, the Civil Court amla are still realizing such fees, &c., from parties. The Collector should send a copy of his order to the District Judge.

16. Referring to the decision of Mr. Radice, District Magistrate of Tippera, in the case in which one Bidhu Dasi prosecuted the Assistant Manager of the Maharaja of Tippera's Estate for breach of trust, the *Sanjivani* of the 1st

August writes as follows:—

We do not like to comment upon Mr. Radice's conduct. Let the public judge for themselves. We have unbounded confidence in the Lieutenant-Governor and his Chief Secretary, Mr. Bolton. Let them decide if it is right to place a man like Mr. Radice in charge of a district. This, it should be remembered, is not the only instance of Mr. Radice's misconduct.

17. The same paper has the following:—

The question of the separation of the executive and judicial functions. If we are asked what is the question of vital importance which should form the foremost subject of political agitation in this country, we would毫不犹豫地 answer—"The question of the separation of executive and judicial functions." The fusion of the executive and judicial functions has raised a cry of discontent throughout the length and breadth of Bengal, and people are not even safe in their homes. Their vitality is being crushed out.

It was, let us say, in an auspicious moment that Mr. Phillips, when Magistrate of Mymensingh, chose a man of Raja Suryyakanta's spirit to be made a victim of his high-handedness. The Mymensingh case roused Sir Richard Garth, and he wrote a series of articles in *India*, showing the blots in the existing system of administration. The British Congress Committee took up the question and Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt wrote a paper showing that it was possible to reform the existing system without incurring any very great expenditure. In this paper he proved that the contention of the Government that the suggested reform, though feasible, was a costly one, was baseless. In a recent speech delivered in the East India Association Mr. Manmohan Ghosh completely proved the urgency of the reform, and by his arguments won over such men as Sir Lepel Griffin to his side. He has now published two pamphlets bristling with cases of magisterial high-handedness. The high-handedness of Mr. Kirkwood in Lalchand Chaudhari's case and also in the Felua case has now become a matter of history. Mr. Ghosh has defended the oppressed in almost all the cases of miscarriage of justice by high-handed Magistrates during the last twenty years, and no one is better entitled to respect than he on the subject of the separation of the executive and judicial functions.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie lately observed that miscarriage of justice in this country was due to young and inexperienced Civilians being placed in charge of districts. Mr. Ghosh's pamphlets, however, are full of cases of miscarriage of justice brought about, not by young and inexperienced, but by old and experienced Magistrates like Kirkwood and Phillips. The Lieutenant-Governor is a liberal-minded and large-hearted ruler, and has the courage to do what he thinks to be right. We, therefore, humbly pray him to read Mr. Ghosh's pamphlets,

and we have no doubt that their reading will change his opinion on the subject.

Mr. Ghosh has quoted the opinions of jurists like Sir Henry Maine and Justice Markby and also of Sir John Peter Grant and Sir John Strachey to prove his point. He has rightly observed that the existing system is not interfered with, simply because such interference will deal a death-blow at the absolute powers of the Indian Magistracy. But is magisterial prestige, we ask, to be preferred to good Government?

(c)—*Jails.*

18. In reference to the case of death from heart-disease, which occurred in the Dacca Jail, the *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st August finds fault with the jail rules, which allow of a prisoner, suffering from such a disease, to be employed in grinding a mill. Why was not the man's health examined, before he was set to such a tough piece of work? So long as the existing jail rules are not amended, no one will look upon a jail as a house of correction.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

(d)—*Education.*

19. The *Sahachar* of the 29th July expresses satisfaction at the Secretary of State's decision not to abolish the Government Art Schools. The Government Art Schools, and congratulates Sir Alfred Croft on the success of his efforts to save the Calcutta School from abolition. The Lahore Art Conference suggested that, in order to increase the usefulness of the Art Schools, industrial arts should be taught there, in addition to the fine arts. This is a good suggestion. Everybody would like to see the Art Schools imparting education, which would enable its recipients to make a livelihood for themselves, as well as render useful services to society. Sir Alfred Croft should now devote his attention to the expansion of the Art School in Calcutta, in the direction suggested, and make all technical schools only branches of that institution.

SAHACHAR,
July 29th, 1896.

20. The *Pratikar* of the 31st July says that school-boys everywhere ought to profit by the advice which the Lieutenant-Governor gave to the Rajshahi students. No one will deny that discipline forms a part of the education of young men. And the Rajshahi students, in particular, ought to take a lesson from the magnanimity shown by the Lieutenant-Governor by asking the Director of Public Instruction to remit the punishment inflicted upon them.

PRATIKAR,
July 31st, 1896.

21. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar*, of the 1st August, complains that certain teachers of the English Department of the Calcutta Madrassa go to sleep during class hours. The practice of fining boys for non-attendance cannot be approved, as this is more a punishment of the guardians than of the boys. The teachers make no enquiries about boys playing the truant for weeks together.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

22. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st August thus comments on the Revised Educational Scheme:— The new scheme has not satisfied the Indian public. The Education Department was so long free from the taint of the invidious distinction between Natives and Europeans, between the black and the white. But, now, at the close of the nineteenth century, that distinction is going to be introduced into it.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

The Indian can enter the Civil Service by passing a competitive examination in England—his colour is no disqualification there. But he will not henceforth be allowed to enter the higher grade of the Educational Service. Why is this mark of subjection branded anew on his forehead? Why is he tainted again with the ignominy of slavery? Indians, like Dr. P. K. Ray, Dr. J. C. Bose, Mr. P. Mukherji, and Mr. Percival are at present in the highest grade of the Educational Service. If the new scheme had been in force when they entered the Service, they would have been precluded from rising to the highest grade, just as Indians of merit will now be precluded from entering what is henceforth to be called the "Indian Educational Service." There are many European Professors of English in the Presidency College, but how many of

them are a match for Mr. Percival in scholarship, experience and ability? Men like Dr. P. C. Ray and Mr. D. N. Mullik, who have not yet entered the higher grade of the service, will be precluded from entering it by the new scheme. But how many European Professors are there more erudite than Dr. P. C. Ray, who has agreeably surprised the scientific world of Europe by discovering a new chemical compound, or than Mr. D. N. Mullik who is a senior wrangler, and is a great Mathematician? But men like them have been declared unfit to enter the higher grade of the Educational Service!

The Civil Service is the most responsible service in India, because it is by the Civilians that the country is governed. But Indians can enter the Indian Civil Service, whilst they will not be able to enter the Indian Educational Service. This unjust arrangement has created discontent in the country. We know that the Government does not care two straws for our discontent, but it is still well to let it know that its new scheme is being condemned throughout the length and breadth of the country.

There is another objectionable feature in the Revised Educational Scheme. Under the new scheme the Government will be at liberty to appoint an able man from any branch of the Public Service to the Directorship of Public Instruction. The arguments which have been urged in support of this policy are extremely lame and halting. Under the new system, Civilians will, in all likelihood, be appointed to the post. This must indeed be looked upon as nothing short of a calamity. Europeans in the Educational Service come across natives of position and respectability. They, therefore, learn to respect native character. Europeans in the Civil Service, however, are surrounded by low class men—the dregs of Indian society—and they naturally entertain a contempt for the natives of India. If Civilians are placed at the head of the Education Department, Indian students will be thrown into a consternation. The peace of the Department will be gone. Civilian rule will crush out the vitality of the Indian students.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

23. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st August observes that it is license and want of discipline that is ruining Indian society. The seeds of indiscipline are sown in the schools and colleges, where Indian boys and young men

learn to live under the guidance of their own uncontrollable passions and desires, and thereby become the cause not only of their own ruin but also of the ruin of their country. This state of things should be remedied, but the pity is that the so-called men of light and leading in the country are too blinded by their conceit and interested sympathy for the students, to realise the enormity of the evil which, they themselves, wittingly or unwittingly, help in bringing about and encouraging. In his Boalia speech the Lieutenant-Governor took the Boalia public to task for their encouraging the students of the Rajshahi College in habits of indiscipline, a thing which they, as guardians and friends of the students, ought not to have done. His Honour said that discipline and self-control were absolutely essential in a boy's life. Unhappily, however, indiscipline and lawlessness invariably follow in the train of western education. The leading men in the country have attained their height, by encouraging the students in habits of indiscipline. This is not as it should be. The writer supports the principle urged by the Lieutenant-Governor in his speech. The friends of the Indian students should teach them discipline and self-control.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 2nd, 1896.

A text-book in use in Normal schools.

24. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 2nd August complains that the late Babu Rajkrishna Mukharji's *Nana Prabandha*, which is a text-book for the students of the Normal schools, is full of notices of atheistical theories, and contain none of those arguments of Hindu philosophy by which those theories can be disproved. The reading of this book is likely to instil atheistical ideas into the minds of the students who, as teachers, are, in their turn, sure to instil them into the minds of their pupils.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 3rd, 1896.

A book on hygiene for the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination.

25. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 3rd August quite agrees with the correspondent of the *Sanjivani* that one of the two text-books on hygiene, prescribed for the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination, should be given up. (Report on Native Papers for 25th July, paragraph 22.) Some five or six years ago, the Central Text-book Committee recommended to the Director of

Public Instruction that the book named *Swasthyer Upaya*, which had been compiled by Government, should be removed from the list of text-books, as it was a worthless book. In deference to the opinion of the Central Text-book Committee, the Director very properly wrote to Government, recommending the removal of the book from the list of text-books. But the Government of Sir Charles Elliott, too solicitous about the interests of the public exchequer, did not grant the request. For the last two years, however, the name of the book has been removed from the list of text-books for the Middle Vernacular Examination. But the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination candidates have still to read two books on hygiene, only in the interests of Government. It is also a point that Government's book on hygiene is taught, though it is not included in the Text-book Committee's list of books.

26. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 5th August thinks that it would be unjust to ignore Mr. Pedler's claims to the Directorship of Public Instruction in Bengal, in favour of a Civilian. But since the Indian Government desire

A Civilian Director of Public Instruction.
to give that post to a Civilian, Sir Alexander Mackenzie will have to give effect to that desire. The officers of the Education Department may, however, try the chance of a protest. If a Civilian be placed at the head of the Education Department, despotism is likely to be exercised in many matters. It is doubtful whether so able a Director as Sir Alfred Croft will ever again be found. His political capacity is such that, if he had been a member of the Covenanted Service, he would have, by this time, obtained a seat in the Viceroy's Council. As between Mr. Pedler and Mr. Martin we have, for a long time, been of opinion that the ability of the former is much greater. We anxiously wait to know the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the matter.

27. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th August approves of the lines laid down by the Central Text-Book Committee for the compilation of a text-book on Bengali grammar. Bengali grammar should, of course, follow Sanskrit grammar, but should not be made as abstruse as the latter. It should not also be cast in the mould of English grammar. It should follow Sanskrit grammar, but should, at the same time, be nothing more or less than Bengali grammar, pure and simple.

28. Referring to Hon'ble Mr. Finucane's reply to the interpellation regarding the text-books for the vernacular examinations, the same paper observes that *Way to Health* should be abolished as a text-book on hygiene for the upper primary examination, when Mr. Finucane himself admits that it is not suited to the Bengali candidates for that examination. As for the late Babu Raj Krishna Mukharji's History of Bengal, in Bengali, it is very ably written and should be kept as a text-book. Mr. Finucane says that three more text-books, on Bengali history, have come to the notice of the Text-Book Committee, and their claim will be considered. But they should not be given any preference over Rajkrishna's book, if they are not as good as that.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration..*

29. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 25th July draws the attention of the Backergunge District Board to the diminished productive power of the fields in the villages of Depulia, Dharmadi, Raypasa, Karamja, &c., within the Kotwali thana, caused by the silting up of the Kaliya khal.

30. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 28th July draws the attention of the authorities to a dangerous bathing ghât at Babuganj in Hooghly town. This ghât is called Rasmanir ghât and is in a dilapidated condition. There is a deep pit by the side of the ghât, which is dangerous to unwary bathers. A few days ago a friend of the writer went with his son to this ghât for the purpose of bathing, and the son would have ventured into the water and found a watery grave in the pit, but for the timely warning of another bather. This ghât should be either repaired or destroyed or people should be prevented from going to it for the purpose of bathing.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 5th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
July 25th, 1896.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 28th, 1896.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 28th, 1896.

31. A correspondent of the same paper prefers the following complaints against the Burdwani Municipality :—
The Rohilpara ward of the Burdwani Municipality. The Rohilpara ward of the municipality is in a filthy condition.

- (1) There is no road, worth the name, to the west of the Maharaja's cow-sheds in Rohilpara.
- (2) The ward is overgrown with noxious plants and shrubs.
- (3) The stinking and noxious drains are dangerous to health.
- (4) The filth of the ward is not regularly removed, and the municipal sweepers and scavengers never pay the ward their visits. Complaint being made against them to the municipality, an overseer was sent to inspect the ward. He made no inquiry into the complaint, but prosecuted a few poor women under municipal bye-law 32, and had them fined.

(5) This has made people afraid of throwing filth out on the road, and they are therefore keeping it within their dwelling-houses, festering into a hotbed of epidemics. The Chairman should himself pay a visit to the ward.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
July 30th, 1896.

Filthy condition of certain streets in Calcutta.

32. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 30th July directs the attention of the Calcutta Municipality to the filthy condition of the roads and streets in the Colootola and Machoabazar quarters of the town. The Inspector and other officers in charge of those quarters should be reprimanded for neglecting their duty.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

The Sanitary Commissioner's Report for 1895.

33. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st August says that, according to the Sanitary Commissioner's Report for 1895, the health of Bengal was better in that year than in previous years. That means that in 1895 the number of deaths was smaller than in 1894. But is a comparison of death-rates, the right mode of judging of the health of the country in different years? It may be the only criterion available, but it does not certainly furnish correct information, if by the health of a country is meant the general health during a year which was enjoyed by its inhabitants in that year. Suppose the residents of a district or town enjoyed health during eleven months in a certain year, but suffered during the remaining month from an outbreak of cholera or fever which carried off five hundred from among them, and suppose that in another district or town of the same size and population, though the residents suffered all the year round from bad health there were only one hundred deaths in the course of the whole year. Judged by Government's criterion the latter district or town would be considered to have enjoyed better health during the year in question than the former. But will any sensible man accept this view as correct?

There was a larger number of deaths from fever in rural areas, than in towns during the year under report. This has been attributed to bad drainage. How then is the high death-rate from fever in certain parts of Chota Nagpur, where drainage is good, to be accounted for? The fact is that no disease can be attributed to one single cause.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

34. The same paper draws attention to the circumstance, that among the 16 Musalman representation on the Khulna District Board, there is not one who is a Musalman, although the Hindu population of the district is only 572,665 and the Musalman population as large as 603,985. The result of the formation of District Boards, with only Hindu members, is that while the Musalmans as well as the Hindus pay the road cess, roads and communications are constructed only in Hindu villages. The majority of the Musalman population in the Khulna district, moreover, being cultivators and traders, generally keep carts and have to pay a wheel tax, in addition to the road cess; still they seldom get new roads constructed in their villages, or their old roads repaired.

BANKURA DARPARAN,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

35. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st August cannot approve of the proposal to levy a tax on wheeled traffic. People already pay the road cess, and why should they be made to pay another cess for the construction and repair of roads? A tax on marriage and processions will yield a very small revenue, but will be extremely disliked.

36. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st August publishes two letters, from mufassal correspondents, on the subject of the proposed taxation for water-supply:—

The proposed taxation for water-supply.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

A correspondent writes from Tamluk that a meeting was lately held at Mahishadul, in the Midnapore district, by the members of the Purba Srirampur School Committee to support the Lieutenant-Governor's scheme of taxation for water-supply. It was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the proposed scheme of taxation would be of immense benefit to the people. The Lieutenant-Governor was thanked for his solicitude for the people's welfare.

Babu Syamapada Mukharji of Purulia writes as follows:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's proposed scheme of taxation only proves his solicitude for the people's welfare. Without such a tax as the one contemplated, there is no hope of improving the sanitary condition of the Bengal villages. Tax-ridden as we are, the very mention of a new tax frightens us out of our wits. The proposed tax will not only make sanitary improvement feasible in the mufassal, but will also extend the scope of local self-government, by the creation of Union Committees. For this the Lieutenant-Governor is certainly entitled to our thanks. One thing, however, demands our close consideration. It is a matter of question whether the imposition of the tax will always remain at the discretion of Union Committees. We need not fear any thing from a just and generous ruler like Sir Alexander Mackenzie. But who can say that a ruler of the stamp of Sir Charles Elliott will not, in future, deprive Union Committees of the power of exercising their discretion in this matter, and leave it entirely to the discretion of the district authorities to impose, or not to impose, the tax? The Lieutenant-Governor's proposed scheme is unobjectionable, but there should be a safe-guard to prevent the imposition and control of the tax going over to the hands of the district authorities.

37. A correspondent of the same paper writes, as follows, in continuation of what he wrote in one of its previous issues (R. N. P. for week ending 18th July, 1896, paragraph 20):—

SANJIVANI.

- (1) Gagan Babu is not the Managing Director of the Albadanga Tea Garden. Gagan Babu has purchased only 20 out of 1,000 shares of Rs. 30 each. His interest in the garden is not, therefore, at all considerable. There are shareholders of the Company who have purchased a larger number of shares.
- (2) The Albadanga Tea Company has no Managing Director. It has five Directors, of whom Gagan Babu is one. Gagan Babu is a Director not only of the Albadanga, but also of many other Tea Companies. He does not even take an active part in the management of the Albadanga Company. Why, then, this attempt to specially associate Gagan Babu's name with the Albadanga Tea Company?
- (3) The allegation that Gagan Babu is trying to ruin the Jaldhaka garden and its owner, Munsi Rahimbux, because it is much more prosperous than the Albadanga garden, is absolutely without a foundation and malicious in the extreme. Gagan Babu had an interest in the Albadanga garden long before the Albadanga Tea Company was formed. He has greater interest at stake in other tea gardens than in the Albadanga garden. Why should he then try to incur the enmity of a powerful man like Munsi Rahimbux?
- (4) The fact is that Munsi Rahimbux has a grudge against Gagan Babu. Before the Albadanga Tea Company was formed, and when the Albadanga garden was in a very bad condition, Munsi Rahimbux tried his best to buy it up at a nominal price. It was Gagan Babu who came to the rescue of its owner, Bihari Babu, and materially helped him in forming a Company.
- (5) A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* has published the Commissioner's decision in the dispute between Gagan Babu and Munsi Rahimbux. He ought to have published all the papers in connection with the case, and specially the report of the Superintending Engineer.

(6) The same correspondent speaks of a searching public inquiry into Gagan Babu's conduct. Gagan Babu himself will welcome such a public inquiry.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

38. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that the Bowreah-Budge-Budge ferry is very badly managed. The contractor "Das Babu" does not look after the convenience of the passengers. He has kept only three boats and five or six inefficient boatmen for the purpose of ferrying such a large number of men as generally use the Bowreah and Budge-budge ferry ghâts. People have to wait more than an hour before they are ferried. This is a source of great inconvenience to them. The District Board of the 24-Parganas should remedy the grievances of the suffering public.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 2nd, 1896.

39. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 2nd August supports the proposed taxation for water-supply. Nothing is dearer than life, and to save it no one will object to pay a tax, even if he has to suffer some inconvenience in so doing.

The proposed tax, it is certain, is not likely to be more harassing than the chaukidari tax, as it will be levied by village Union Committees. A slight addition to the chaukidari tax, in the shape of a water-tax, will not press heavily upon the people. Considering the discussion and party-strife which prevail in the villages, no good is likely to be done to their inhabitants if Union Committees are not formed. It is useless to appeal to the past. The old order has changed, yielding place to the new. The religiousness of the people has died out, and the present zamindars cannot, like their forefathers, dig tanks and wells with the help of forced labour. It will be extremely foolish to oppose the proposed scheme of taxation. It will be only just and right to levy a tax on wheeled conveyances and bridges.

The Government should, at the same time, do one thing. It should undertake to repair and maintain the imperial roads in the Dacca, as in the other districts, at its own cost, as it used to do before. The district road cess fund is spent up in maintaining these roads, and the cess-payers complain that the object of the tax is not fulfilled. If the Government maintains these roads at its own cost, the District Boards will have funds enough for the purpose of improving the water-supply.

DACCA PRAKASH.

The Dacca Municipality and the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Dacca.

40. The same paper observes that the Lieutenant-Governor refused to accept any address from the Dacca Municipality, if it was not signed by all the Commissioners. The Chairman did not request all the Commissioners to sign the address, and the twelve Commissioners, who have tendered their resignation, refused to sign it, if the Chairman did not resign. As the question could not be amicably settled, no municipal address was presented to the Lieutenant-Governor. The conduct of the Commissioners has disgusted the writer, more than that of the Chairman.

The conduct of the Dacca Municipality has naturally offended the Lieutenant-Governor. In his reply to the address of the Dacca District Board, His Honour criticised the conduct of the Municipality. He will, however, wait for three days to see if the municipal quarrel can be made up. There is, however, no chance of this dispute being settled, if the Chairman does not resign. He has offended the Commissioners very much.

But will the Lieutenant Governor strike the axe at the root of Local Self-Government in Dacca? The punishment His Honour is likely to inflict on the Municipality may take one of two forms. He may place an official Chairman at the head of the Municipality, or he may deprive Dacca of the right of electing Commissioners to the Municipality. It is, however, the experience of the writer, that non-official Chairmen, with all their faults, have done greater good to Dacca than official Chairmen, who have to depend entirely on the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary. As for nominated Commissioners, it is to them that the Dacca municipal squabbles are due.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 2nd, 1896.

41. The Babus, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd August, are in the habit of thinking that the Municipalities and District Boards are Parliaments on a small scale, and that these representative institutions are the materials with which they will, one day, succeed in creating

Sir Alexander Mackenzie on Local Self-Government.

a regular Parliament in this country. They think that their duty as Commissioners of Municipalities and Members of District Boards begin and end with speech-making, and talking high politics. And they appeal to Lord Ripon's Resolution on Local Self-Government as supporting their view. Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar, the Faridpur Hampden, read the Municipal address, in which an appeal was made to the Resolution of Lord Ripon as the Great Charter of political rights. The Lieutenant-Governor gave a fitting reply to this address. He observed that the object of the Resolution was simply "to associate local people with the administration of local business." As if to taunt the Municipal Babus of Faridpur, His Honour pointed his finger at the Dacca Municipality when he said:—"If Municipalities in these eastern districts would remember that that is their primary function, we would probably hear less than we do of such contentious proceedings as are going on at present in the municipality of a neighbouring district." The Babus must have been offended by the plain-speaking of the Lieutenant-Governor. But they should not have made a mountain of a molehill.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

42. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 28th July advises the East Indian Railway Company to give up the route at present

The proposed Burdwan-Katwa Railway. fixed upon for the proposed Burdwan-Katwa Railway. There are more objections than one against

the proposed route. It is not straight, it passes through villages not at all important and across agricultural lands, the acquisition of which by the Railway Company will be a serious loss to *raiyats*. It will also require the bridging up of the Gour. If this route is given up and a line is carried straight from Sadhanpur in Burdwan to Katwa, it will pass through many important towns and populous villages, which are centres of trade and business. This straight route will save the Company the cost of constructing two miles of railway, and the bridge over the Gour, and will, at the same time, be a paying one—much more paying than the route which has been proposed.

43. The *Hitavadi* of the 31st July says that the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, having remarked in his decision in the Rajabala case that cases like that were not rare on Railways, Government called upon

the East Indian Railway Company for an explanation. The Agent of the Company compiled a statement of such complaints for the preceding six years, and saw that they were very few in number. He therefore concluded that the Chief Justice's assertion had no foundation in fact.

As a matter of fact, native women are insulted on railways at every step, and often they are dishonoured outright. Scarcely one out of a thousand small oppressions on native women on railways reaches the ears of the authorities, the reason being that the people of this country consider even the smallest liberties taken with a woman a matter of deep social disgrace, and therefore try their best to keep such affronts secret.

We have heard from trustworthy sources that ticket examiners have touched the breast, pinched the cheek or kissed the faces of many young women, who have slunk away more dead than alive, weeping tears of shame and anger, not venturing to tell anybody of their disgrace. If the Agent had been aware of these things, he would have taken greater precautions, than he has, for the safety of female honour on railways.

We will here inform the Railway authorities of a fresh oppression of this nature, an account of which a correspondent has communicated to us.

On the 13th July last, the guard of the train which left Kalka after midnight, and two other guards who were then with him in the brake-van indulged in ribald jests at the expense of the wife of a Hindustani gentleman, named Lakshminarayan. The gentleman repeatedly protested against such conduct, on which the ruffians vilely abused him, and at last threatened to beat him. Many other gentlemen, besides our correspondent, were witnesses of this occurrence.

The matter would have ended much worse, if the woman had not been accompanied by her husband. Wrongs like these are not to be redressed by light punishments inflicted on the guilty parties.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 28th, 1896.

HITAVADI,
July 31st, 1896.

Railway officers often try to screen their guilty subordinates. In many cases it is put down in the office papers of the railways that complainants and witnesses were called upon to give evidence, while, as a matter of fact, they were not so called upon.

In conclusion, Lord Elgin is earnestly requested to give a little more attention to the matter. He has already done much for the protection of female honour on railways, and if he takes a little more trouble, their honour will become perfectly safe. For that service, if for nothing else, the Indians will remain grateful to him to the latest generations.

HITAVADI,
July 31st, 1896.

44. The same paper says that the popular impression is that the number of killed and wounded in the late railway collision at Delhi is greater than what the railway authorities have thought fit to report.

45. A correspondent of the same paper complains that passengers have to suffer great inconvenience from the want of a platform at the Kalipahari station, between Raniganj

and Assensole. As the request of the passengers to open the carriage doors is not always heeded at Kalipahari, many bound for that station have to travel as far as Assensole before they can get down, and have to pay excess fare into the bargain, and many intending passengers have to travel the same distance, holding by the knobs on the doors.

HITAVADI.

46. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that passengers, especially female passengers, have to suffer great inconvenience in travelling by the steamers, which

either start from Ulubaria or take passengers there on the way. In the first place, great difficulty is experienced in procuring tickets, as tickets are issued only half an hour before the time fixed for the starting of the steamer. In the second place, passengers have to get into the steamer through a narrow passage on the jetty, on which men, women and children are huddled together. As everybody tries to get in first, there is a great deal of pressing and squeezing, so that women and children are almost suffocated. The correspondent actually found a man struck with heat apoplexy in the squeeze. The men naturally get in first, and the women lag behind. By the time the latter reach the steamer, the vessel is almost full, and they have to make their way with difficulty through crowds of male strangers, and wicked men often take advantage of this circumstance to take liberties with them. Their distress, on these occasions, cannot fail to move any sympathetic heart. These inconveniences can be removed by the adoption of the following measures:—

(1) Railing in the way to the steamer.

(2) Allowing women, and those who accompany them, to get in first.

(3) Setting apart one side of the steamer for males, and another part for females.

(4) Taking in only as many as can find standing room.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

47. The Sanjivani of the 1st August complains that, on the 17th July last,

A Railway complaint. one Babu Bhudev Chandra Rai, a student of the St. Xavier's College, accompanied a friend to the Sealdah Station platform of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The friend occupied a seat in a second class compartment and his servants seats in a third class compartment. No sooner had the latter taken their seats than a drunken European soldier began to thrash them with a stick. Bhudev Babu brought the matter to the notice of the guard, but the guard said:—"All right, that's well done." The soldier was about to beat his friend, when the matter was brought to the notice of the station-master. That functionary, instead of taking the drunken soldier to task, upbraided Bhudev Babu and told him that he had nothing to do there, and that if he did not leave the platform he would be turned out by his men. It is a pity that such abuses should prevail in a State Railway.

SANJIVANI.

48. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the road from Bowreah to Andul, in the Howrah district, is in a very bad condition. This road is used by the inhabitants of about 250 villages, but its miserable condition has almost passed into a proverb. About three thousand coolies of the neighbouring jute and cotton mills every day pass and re-pass this road.

If the Chairman of the District Board makes some arrangement with the Managers of the mills for the metalling of the road with the cast-off coal dust, he will confer a boon on those who have to use this road. Metalled, with coal dust, the road will stand the heavy traffic it has to meet. The contractors who undertake to repair this road do their work perfunctorily. The Board should, henceforth, strictly supervise their work.

49. Another correspondent of the same paper complains of the Goalundo Railway and Steamer com- Steamer Service. There is no second or intermediate class in the steamers. This is a great inconvenience to native passengers, who do not feel it quite convenient to travel with Europeans, first class. The writer cites two instances of inconvenience. Mahamahopadhyaya Chandrakanta Tarkalankar had some time ago to travel first class by one of these steamers. The cabin in which he had to travel was previously occupied by a European passenger, whom he found sleeping and he had consequently to sit up the whole night. The same lot befell a Munsif friend of the writer.

The writer has also something to say about the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The number of compartments in a carriage should be increased, and not more than five passengers should be allowed to occupy a bench. An additional light should be placed in every compartment, and privy arrangements should be made in third class carriages. In mail trains there should be separate carriages for passengers bound for Goalundo and for those bound for intermediate stations. The rate of railway fare for goods should be reduced.

50. The attention of the authorities, observes the *Bangarasi* of the 1st August, is rarely drawn to the condition of the Bengal rivers. The Government derives a large revenue from rivers and canals, but it is rarely, if ever, that the Government does any thing to improve their condition. As if to forcibly draw the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the silting up of the Bengal rivers, his steamer could not ply in the low water of the Bhagirathi, and he was prevented from getting down to Berhampore. There can be no denying the fact that the rivers and canals in Bengal are gradually silting up. It will be impossible to live in Bengal, if all the rivers and canals silt up in course of time. If the incident impresses Sir Alexander Mackenzie with the magnitude of the evil, which the silting up of the rivers is most likely to bring about and if His Honour is induced to take steps to prevent that evil, good will come out of the seeming evil of His Honour's failure to visit Berhampore.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

(h)—General.

51. The *Sahachar* of the 29th July says that it will be a great misfortune for Bengal if Mr. Stevens, Member of the Board of Revenue, is made to retire, on his attaining his

SAHACHAR,
July 29th, 1896.

fifty-fifth year. If that is done, he will have to go out in about four months' time. But considering his experience and abilities as a Revenue Officer, and the difficulties attending the survey and settlement of Orissa and the cadastral survey of Bihar, Government ought to allow Mr. Stevens to remain in service for at least two years more. Everybody knows how satisfactorily he is solving intricate revenue questions, and it is rumoured that he has submitted to the Secretary of State, for approval, a scheme for settlement operations. Though fifty-five, Mr. Stevens works like a young man.

SULABH DAINIK,
July 30th, 1896.

52. The wind, observes the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 30th July, blows favourable. The Lieutenant-Governor, out touring, is assuring the people of good government, in his reply to welcome addresses. The more one reads

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's sentiments as a ruler. Sir Alexander's speeches, the more is his heart filled with gratitude and respect. In his Pabna speech His Honour said that he had begun his official career in Bengal, and it was gratifying to him to finish his career as the Lieutenant-Governor of that Province. He hoped that his friendly relations with the Bengalis would remain unchanged and unshaken. Good government was impossible without a close and intimate connection between the rulers and the ruled. The people of Bengal will not fail to reciprocate these kindly sentiments of the Lieutenant-Governor.

SULABH DAINIK,
July 30th, 1896.

The grade system in the Gov-
ernment service.

PRATIKAR,
July 31st, 1896.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

53. The same paper observes that the people of Bengal will ever remain grateful to Sir Alexander Mackenzie if he restores the grade system in the Government service. Bengali clerks are proverbially poverty-stricken, and a fixed pay is a great hardship to them with their growing wants. If the grade system is restored, hardworked clerks will work harder.

54. The *Pratikar* of the 31st July cannot approve of the Lieutenant-Governor's intention to amalgamate all the lunatic asylums in Bengal in one large institution. The scheme may effect some saving in expenditure, but the congregation of so many lunatics, in one place, will frustrate the object with which they are detained in asylums. Centralization of asylums, in one place, will also cause inconvenience to the public.

55. In reference to Sir Alexander Mackenzie's reply to the Muhammadan address, presented to him in Monghyr, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st August writes as follows:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie on the employment of Muhammadans in the public service

We have not been satisfied with the Lieutenant

Governor's reply that "it must suffice if, on the whole, a fair share of the appointments is given to educated Muhammadans, when they have shown themselves worthy to receive them." What we want is, that the number of appointments, which are given to educated and competent Musalmans in every district, should bear to the number of Hindu appointments the same proportion as the Musalman population of the district bears to its Hindu population. We cannot expect the district authorities to pay any regard to the claims of Musalmans, in the absence of Government's special and specific orders to that effect. Is not the Lieutenant-Governor aware that, in many districts, competent and deserving Musalmans are not getting appointments? It will not be too much to say that, at the present time, the door to Government service is almost completely shut against the Musalmans. Sir Charles Elliott's Circular, regarding the appointment of Musalmans in Government service, has remained a dead letter, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie certainly knows that. We do not want Government to take illiterate and incompetent Musalmans into its service, but we would bring to its notice the fact that even educated and competent Musalmans are not getting employment under it.

The reason of our demanding public appointments for the Musalmans is that Muhammadan officers can more easily know the wants and grievances of the Musalmans than Hindu officers. As matters now stand, even the district in which the Muhammadan population is double the Hindu population, often contains not a single Muhammadan officer. Take, for instance, the Education Service. Seventy-five per cent. of the population of the Noakhali, Barisal, Chittagong, Tippera, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts is Musalman; but how many Musalman Deputy Inspectors are there in these districts? Will the Lieutenant-Governor say whether Muhammadan education is not better superintended by Muhammadan than by Hindu officers? It cannot be said that the paucity of Musalmans in the Education Service is due to the want of a sufficient number of competent Musalmans. A number of competent candidates, who have already applied for Deputy Inspectorships, are sitting idle, because they are not provided with appointments.

We cannot believe that Musalmans are excluded from the Judicial Service because they do not know Bengali. Who can believe that the Bengali Musalmans, whose mother-tongue is Bengali, do not know that language? But supposing that Bengali Musalmans are innocent of all knowledge of Bengali, why should they be debarred from employment in the Judicial Service, simply on that ground, when the Bengali Hindu's ignorance of Urdu and Hindustani and the spoken dialect of the Biharis does not disqualify him for service as a judicial officer in Bihar? If the Bengali Hindu can acquire a sufficient knowledge of Urdu and Hindustani after appointment, cannot the Bengali Musalmans acquire a knowledge of Bengali with more facility? Why, again, does not ignorance of Bengali incapacitate Biharis from serving in the Judicial Service? Many Biharis, who did not know Bengali, served with credit as Judicial Officers in Bengal. Take the case of Musalman Deputy Magistrates themselves. How do these officers discharge their duties? Is there an interpreter in the Court of every Musalman Deputy Magistrate?

We would ask the Judge, in charge of the English Department of the Calcutta High Court, to examine Musalman candidates for Munsifships in Bengali, and Hindu candidates in Urdu and Hindustani, and then say which set of candidates is more competent.

56. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st August publishes the following telegram:—

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

Visiting the Lieutenant-Governor on tour.

Pabna,
29th July.

"Sir Alexander Mackenzie visited Kustia on the 25th July, received municipal address and people's memorial, and graciously wanted to be introduced to the gentlemen present. But the District Magistrate introduced officials only. The gentlemen who promised about Rs. 17,000 to supply pure drinking water in the subdivision went away disappointed."

It should be enquired whether the charge against the Magistrate is true or not. It is notorious that some Magistrates are in the habit of preventing leading men, of independent spirit, from going near the Lieutenant-Governor, fearing lest they bring official misdoings to his notice. It is such Magistrates as these who frustrate the benevolent object of the Lieutenant-Governor's tour.

57. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the Mugkalyan

SANJIVANI.

A postal grievance. village post-office in the Howrah district is very badly managed. This post-office was formerly a sub-post-office, but the postal authorities, for reasons better known to them, turned it into a village post office and entrusted its management to some one or other of the teachers of the Mugkalyan school. The teachers of that school, having now declined to manage the post-office, it has been removed to a stationery shop in Chandrabhag, a neighbouring village, and the stationer has been entrusted with its management, which is being very badly done. The post-office has an income, sufficient to maintain it in the *status* of a sub-post-office, and the postal authorities should place its management in efficient hands.

58. The Lieutenant-Governor, observes the same paper is freely and

SANJIVANI.

The Lieutenant-Governor's appeal to the people. openly giving vent to his feelings in his speeches in reply to the welcome addresses which are being presented to him by the public bodies of the different places he is visiting. At Pabna His Honour observed that he began his official career in Bengal, and it was gratifying to him to find himself in the position of the Lieutenant Governor of that Province at the end of that career. His Honour hoped that the feelings of sympathy and confidence, which existed between himself and the people, would remain unshaken to the end, for he thought, without mutual trust and sympathy, good government was impossible. The people of Bengal must be very unfortunate if they fail to fully confide in, and sympathise with, such a generous and large-hearted ruler.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

59. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 6th August says that Mr. Risley is anxious

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 6th, 1896.

Mr. Risley and the Bengal Municipal Act Amendment Bill. to get his Bengal Municipal Act Amendment Bill passed during the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor on tour. But would it not be better to

have the Bill passed under the presidency of His Honour. Mr. Risley is making himself unpopular by treating one or two of his fellow members in the way he does. It is hoped that he will be able to win everybody's praise by his acts, like the present able Chief Secretary.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

60. One Babu Bama Charan Mukharji writes in the *Hitavadi* of the 31st

HITAVADI,
July 31st, 1896

Distress in Dakshin Shahbazpur in the Backergunge district. July from Bhola, that great distress prevails in Dakshin Shahbazpur, which is a granary of Bengal.

Rice is selling there at five rupees per maund. The betel-nut crop was much damaged by a storm last year, and there was a total failure of the paddy crop. Floods have done much damage to the paddy crop this year, also, so that a good outturn cannot be expected. The number of beggars has increased to an extent which was never known before. Parents can give no food to their children. Two or three have committed suicide by hanging unable to bear the distress of their hungry children.

The editor remarks that if the facts stated be true, Government should adopt prompt relief measures.

PRATIKAR,
July 31st, 1896.

61. The *Pratikar* of the 31st July has the following:—

The food problem.

We have, we are glad to say, no other wants, except that of food and clothing. Everything that is required to gratify our love of luxury is always forthcoming. The mind is pleased by the use and enjoyment of new articles every day, but the body is getting emaciated for want of food. This is the case in every family. The peasant spends a portion of his scanty earnings on articles of no value and for purposes which are far from useful or important, and then borrows money to purchase his daily meal. The existing taxes press heavily on the people, and fear of fresh taxation is ever present in their minds. The internal condition of the country is daily becoming more and more deplorable. It is only a few who can command two full meals a day, and who can be said to be tolerably well off. The price of food is daily increasing. Thanks to political economy, even this, it would seem, is a good sign, for a rise in the price of food is said to indicate an improvement in the condition of the agriculturists. What we, however, see before our eyes is that the people are gradually growing weak and emaciated for want of food. Last year there was a failure of crops, owing to insufficient rainfall. This year, too, the prospects of the rice crop are not favourable. Rice is already selling at ten seers for a rupee. The people are becoming more and more impoverished. How long will this state of things last? There is loss of crops, year after year, either through drought or through excessive rainfall and floods. The fact does not receive the least attention from Government, which is only anxious to impose fresh taxes. As for those who have the impudence to pose as the country's representatives, the great majority of them have their eyes fixed on higher matters. They are busy with high politics, and feel no inclination to attend to questions which affect the vital interests of the masses. The expenses of a native house-holder are increasing in different ways. As he cannot but move with the times, his most careful and diligent efforts to put down expenditure prove infructuous. What with the high price of food, increase of family and the requirements of the time, one has now to make larger and larger expenses every successive year. Not to speak of marrying a daughter, which not unoften results in the sale of the paternal homestead, even the *sradhs* have grown to be a fruitful source of expense. Education is another costly matter. Then there is litigation—an evil which one has occasionally to face. This, too, is expensive. Even small suits involve a large expenditure of money. Luxury is proving the ruin of the country, and it is not possible to stem the current. With the exception of a handful of men who are in the receipt of fat salaries, the whole population may be said to be suffering from scarcity of food, and yet their external appearance is one of ease and affluence. Official reports, therefore, will continue to describe the condition of the country, as one of increasing prosperity. The fact, nevertheless, is that the population is increasing, and the soil does not yield sufficient crops. There is also a want of drinking-water. Altogether the present condition of the country is a matter for grave anxiety.

PRATIKAR.

62. The same paper says that the *aus* crop in Bagri, in the Murshidabad district, is completely destroyed for want of rain, Crops in certain districts. and the cultivation of the *aman* crop in Birbhum, Hooghly and Burdwan has been suspended from the same cause. The little *aman* that was sown is withering up. In Bagri, rice is selling at a very high price.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

63. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 1st August complains that Scarcity in Mymensingh. many villages, under the jurisdiction of the Gafar-gaon thana in the Mymensingh district, are suffering from scarcity. People are selling off their movables and cattle to buy rice. Many have to starve for two or three days together, after which they get one meal. Many are living upon vegetables, and children are crying and pestering their parents in vain for rice. Rice is selling at Rs. 3-12 and Rs. 4 per *maund*. The Mahajans are lending money only at a prohibitive rate of interest. Many are mortgaging their jute crops to get money. The poor *raiyyats*, who are borrowing money now, will be ruined in paying off their debts and the demands of their landlords.

64. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st August has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

Floods in Burdwan.

The Damodar has overflowed her banks and many people have been ruined. We do not know

what measures the Government has taken, or proposes to take, to relieve the distressed people, but this is clear that there will remain no hope for them if the Government does not come to their rescue. The floods, of the 24th July, have done irreparable damage to Berugram and neighbouring villages. Thousands have been rendered destitute and helpless, and their distress is heartrending. Many have written to us bewailing their lot. We have been rendered homeless, they write, we had to live in water, so to speak, for many hours. Our cattle and our property have been washed away. We did not mind all this. But it was too much for us to see our children starve and piteously cry for food. This almost drove us mad, and we were about to drown ourselves in the waters of the Damodar, not being able to bear that agonizing sight.

The Damodar is notoriously subject to floods, and it was to protect the people living on her banks that the authorities had constructed *bunds* on both her banks, the dams in the places most open to the floods being made strong enough to bear the pressure of flood water. An Engineer was appointed to look after the repair and maintenance of these embankments, and no pains were spared to ensure the safety of the people. This embankment Engineer still exists.

This was the state of things before the East Indian Railway was opened. Since its opening this state of things has been altered. The line was laid on the eastern bank of the Damodar. Whenever there was a heavy flood, either the eastern or the western embankment gave way in several places. Whenever the eastern embankment gave way, the railway suffered more or less. It was at this time that an attempt was made to prevent the eastern embankment of the Damodar from giving way, and it was from this time also that the misfortune of the people, living on the western bank of the river, commenced. We have already said that, formerly, the embankment was made specially capable of bearing pressure of flood water, at places most open to floods. Lakhra was one of these places, and the embankment at Lakhra was a protection to Berugram and many other villages. The embankment at Lakhra sometimes gave way, but the Public Works Department quickly repaired the breach to prevent further mischief. Since the opening of the East Indian Railway, however, the Government has ceased to look after the maintenance of the embankment on the western bank of the Damodar, and it is now virtually regarded as an abandoned embankment. The *bund* at Lakhra was thus left unrepaired for fifteen or sixteen years, and it suddenly yielded to the pressure of the floods of 1889, and the surrounding country was at once submerged in water. Houses fell, crops were destroyed and cattle were washed away. Thousands of people were rendered homeless and destitute. The people in their distress begged the Government to dam the Damodar and repair the embankment at Lakhra. Mr. R. C. Dutt was, at that time, the Magistrate of Burdwan. He went personally to the scene of occurrence and sent a Deputy Magistrate from house to house enquiring after the condition of the distressed people, and helping them with money to buy food and repair their houses. The floods of this year have done greater damage than those of 1889. But the district authorities have not yet made any attempt whatever to save the people. They are still left to themselves, helpless and destitute.

Mr. Dutt, in 1889, promptly responded to the call of the distressed people, and came to their rescue in time. He, however, failed to have the embankment repaired. Flood succeeded flood, and the suffering of the people of Berugram and other adjoining villages was far from coming to an end. They repeatedly called the attention of the Government to their distress, but to no purpose. Sir Charles Elliott was then the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He went personally to Lakhra, accompanied by the Chief Engineer and the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, to see the state of things. The people were elated with joy to see the Lieutenant-Governor on the scene of occurrence, and they were sanguine that their days of suffering had at last come to an end. After inspection, His Honour came to the conclusion that the pressure of the flood waters was the highest at Lakhra, because they met with resistance from

the embankment in other places. It was, therefore, decided that the embankment in these places should be removed, and the Damodar should be dammed at Lakhra with spars of wood. The people foresaw the danger in which this arrangement was sure to result, but they did not object, seeing that the Lieutenant-Governor had made this arrangement for their good. So the embankment on the western side of the Damodar was almost destroyed, and the river was dammed with spars of wood at Lakhra. But this wooden dam was of no avail against the torrent of flood waters, and it was washed away. A dam is constructed every year at a cost of five or six thousand rupees, and is every year washed away by flood. The year before last a masonry dam was constructed, but it, too, has proved unavailing. The consequence is that the deposit of silt, carried by the flood waters into the interior, is raising the surface of the fields on the bank of the river. Whenever, therefore, there is an overflowing of the bank, the flood waters rush into the villages and find no outlet, being dammed by the raised surface of the neighbouring fields. The villages thus remain submerged for days together, and great damage is caused to property.

This, then, is the state of things in the overflowed villages. The question is, will the Government remain indifferent and let them be turned into a desert, or will it come to the rescue of the people and protect them against the floods? The Government does not certainly wish to see the people suffer and perish. Let it, therefore, restore the *bund* on the western bank of the Damodar, and construct a specially strong embankment at Lakhra. The wooden dam has proved worse than useless and a waste of money. If the embankment on the western bank of the Damodar is not soon restored, the people would be sure to perish.

Letters are pouring in upon us, full of painful accounts of distress. These letters will fill ten such sheets of paper as the one on which the *Bangavasi* is printed. They are all couched in the same woeful strain. Houses have fallen. Walls have been cracked. Cattle and property have been washed away. Many have taken shelter in trees. There is not a plot of land to cook one's food on. Many are starving with their children. This is the burden of all the letters. Babu Girish Chandra Basu of Berugram has memorialized the Government on behalf of the distressed people, and has also written about the distress in the *Englishman* and other newspapers, in the hope of drawing the attention of the authorities to this calamity. We shall be glad to hear that our kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor has been moved by the distress of the people, and is going to take steps to permanently save the people from the floods. The people have done their duty by bringing their grievance to the notice of the Government. Let the Government now do its duty by the people.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 1st, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 2nd, 1896.

65. A correspondent of the same paper reports that the Kharhkai, in the Singhbhum district, overflowed its banks on the

Floods in Singhbhum. 22nd July and submerged the village Sanaikilla in that district. Trees have been uprooted, houses have fallen, and cattle have been washed away. The people were taken by surprise and had no time to save their property. Three men have died, and four men who took shelter in a tree have been washed away. A man, a woman and two boys of Jugusai, a neighbouring village, have also been washed away. Damage has been done to the extent of ten thousand rupees.

66. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd August writes as follows:—

Floods in Burdwan.

If there had been a breach in the embankment on the eastern bank of the Damodur, and if there had been a consequent breach in the East Indian Railway line, there would have been a great flutter in the official dove-cote. Officialdom would have been thrown into a consternation, the Anglo-Indian papers would have been filled with lengthy reports of the floods, and unintermittent telegraphic communication would have been held with England giving the particulars of the great catastrophe. Questions too would have been asked in Parliament and the Secretary of State would have been hard put to it, giving explanations. Even the Lieutenant-Governor would have had to cut short his tour, and come back post-haste to Burdwan, in which direction the District Magistrate, the Divisional Commissioner and the Chief Engineer also would have had to run with their staff. All this and more would have taken place if the Damodar had overflowed her eastern bank.

But it is the western bank that has been overflowed, and there has been a consequent breach in the western embankment. On the western bank there is no East Indian Railway line. There are no mills, or factories there. The villages on the western bank are inhabited by poor, helpless and powerless natives. This is the reason why Sir Charles Elliott said that the western bank of the Damodar should be allowed to be overflooded; it is quite natural that it should be overflooded. The flood waters must find some outlet, and let them find an outlet there. The breach in the embankment did not demand a repair. In the official report on the Midnapore floods it was written that the people of the overflooded villages ought to move on and dwell far away from them. Speaking of the Ganges floods, Sir Rivers Thompson once said that they did good to the country by washing off germs of diseases, and a rice crop gone was sure to be compensated by a bumper kalai crop. We do not know what the opinion of Sir Alexander Mackenzie is on the subject. He should, however, know that the recent floods have ruined many villages, and rendered hundreds of persons homeless and destitute. His Honour ought to have paid a visit, ere now, to the flood-stricken villages on the Damodar. It will not be too late even now for him to go there. Rai Bama Charan Paramanik, Bahadur, the Officiating Executive Engineer, Drainage and Embankment division, ought to pay a visit to the flood-stricken villages, and submit a report. The police should not be entrusted with the investigation into the matter. The Magistrate and the District Board of Burdwan should be up and doing, and form an estimate of the loss suffered by each village. Berugram is one of the villages which have suffered most.

The writer then gives a list of the names of the inhabitants of Berugram, who are alleged to have suffered from the late floods, together with a rough estimate of the amount of loss they are said to have suffered.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

67. In reference to the Lieutenant-Governor's postponement of his intended visit to Murshidabad, the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th July writes as follows:—

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
July 29th, 1896.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and *Hitaishi* of the 29th July writes as follows:—
Murshidabād.

This is a day of disappointment for Murshidabad—of disappointment, so grievous, as it has never been its lot to suffer. The people of Murshidabad became overjoyous as the day of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit drew nearer, and they were almost in ecstacies when the 22nd day of July dawned. But, unexpectedly, at four o'clock on that day, a telegram was received to the effect that the absence of sufficient water in the Bhagirathi prevented His Honour from coming down to Murshidabad. The news came like a thunder-stroke upon the Murshidabad people.

People may ask why Murshidabad has been so much disappointed at the Lieutenant-Governor not paying his intended visit to it. The answer is that the Murshidabad people have not yet forgotten the time when the present Lieutenant-Governor came among them as Collector of the district, and pleased everybody by his administration. The memory of those days is still sweet to the residents of Murshidabad, and will ever remain so. It is this remembrance which has made their present disappointment much more deep. Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the people of Murshidabad are bound to each other, not only by the relation which subsists between the ruler and ruled, but by a closer and dearer tie. He is not only their sovereign and ruler, but also their old friend and well-wisher as well. There is no other place in Bengal with which old reminiscences of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's are mixed up.

68. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide*, of the 30th July, feels sorry at the unsympathetic tone of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's reply to the Muhammadan address in reply to the address presented to him by the Monghyr.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
July 30th, 1896.

Muhammadans of Monghyr, who complained of the paucity of their co-religionists in the Judicial Service. His Honour should not have been offended with the Muhammadans, who approached him with the fervent hope that their prayer would receive their ruler's best consideration. If the Muhammadans' ignorance of Bengali is held to make them incompetent for the Judicial line, the Bengali Hindus, too, must be held incompetent to serve as Judicial officers in Bihar, on account of their ignorance of Hindi and Hindustani.

To give preference to the Bengali Hindus over the Muhammadans, on the plea that the former can speak in the vernacular languages of Bihar, is to do a great injustice, because the Hindus of Bengal can speak in the vernacular of Bihar no better than the Behari Musalmans can speak in Bengali. When His Honour could assign the Muhammadans' ignorance of Bengali as the cause of their ineligibility for the Judicial service, who can say that he will not next use the same plea for keeping Musalmans away from the executive line? His Honour's reply could, indeed, have no other object than to snub the Muhammadans and cloud their future prospects. We cannot, therefore, accept the reply to the Monghyr Muhammadans with the deference due to the words which fall from the Ruler of a Province. The Muhammadans had hoped for impartial justice at the hands of His Honour, but they have been disappointed. It is now certain that the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not be beneficial to the Muhammadan community:—

PRATIKAR
July 31st, 1896.

69. The *Pratikar* of the 31st July writes as follows:—

On the present occasion we must be content Murshidabad feeling towards the Lieutenant-Governor. with worshipping our Ruler from a distance; with worshipping him, that is, in our minds. The Lieutenant-Governor came to know of the preparations which were being made for his reception in Berhampore, and having received the addresses, sent his reply by post. Written as it is with his own hand, the reply should be taken as words coming from his mouth. The kind words in which he spoke of us at Rajshahi have been particularly gratifying to our feelings. His Honour's kind letter has been read with great pleasure in Murshidabad.

HITAVADI,
July 31st, 1896.

70. The *Hitavadi* of the 31st July writes as follows:—

In our last issue we mentioned many oppressions that are committed by indigo-planters. Such oppressions exist in many places; only the people do not often venture to complain of them, on account of their poverty and helplessness, their fear of the police, and their despair of obtaining redress in the law Courts. Let a person only look to Bihar and he will meet with innumerable instances of indigo oppression. We often hear of inhuman oppressions, oppressions that would be enough to melt even the hardest heart, and we cannot then bring ourselves to believe that we are really living under British rule, that in this country the least respect is felt for justice. As our informants do not venture to give their names, we can do nothing but weep in our despair of being able to do any good by our writing.

How should they find courage to seek redress who have been ground down by constant oppression? Is not justice, again, difficult to be had in a country, in which an English complainant or defendant in a criminal proceeding can address the trying Magistrate so familiarly as "My dear Konstam?"

The following letter about the oppressions of the indigo-planter, Mr. Shirreff, will move every sympathetic heart:—

Many will have heard of Mr. Shirreff, indigo-planter of Jessore. Many words are not needed to describe a man whose oppressions gave rise to wails in the estate of Bijali, which reached even the ears of the Lieutenant-Governor, and whose subsequent proceedings are making the raiyats of that estate regret that they ever appealed to His Honour. Suffice it to say that the police, the raiyats, the zamindars, all are terribly afraid of him, but do not venture to complain of his oppressions to anybody, unless it be to God. The villages of Gopalpur, Nowdapara and Oyaria, in the Jhenida subdivision of the Jessore district, were, for some years, in the occupation of Mr. Shirreff as *ijardar*. During those years the raiyats were ruined, and many left their homes for good. Those who clung tenaciously to their holdings, in the hope of acquiring some day the right of occupancy, were reduced to great straits. Seeing the misery of the raiyats, the zamindar refused to grant a fresh lease of the villages to Mr. Shirreff. But Mr. Shirreff must have a fresh lease of those villages, for his cupidity will be satisfied with nothing short of laying his foot on the hearts of the raiyats and squeezing indigo, as it were, out of them. He is therefore always picking quarrels with the raiyats, and harassing them by criminal proceedings. No sooner does one proceeding end than another begins. As soon as the father returns from jail, the son is sent to it. Mr. Shirreff's object is to harass the raiyats, and thereby to compel the zamindar to grant

him a fresh lease of the villages. The very Magistrate requested the zamindar to grant Mr. Shirreff a fresh lease. Mr. Shirreff has declared, in open Court, that nothing less than a lease of the villages will satisfy him. The raiyats agreed to cultivate some indigo for him, but he did not accept that term. Either Mr. Shirreff himself, or his assistant, Mr. Lydiard, gives evidence in every case, and as they are Englishmen and, moreover, kiss the Bible, they are believed; whilst the poor raiyats, who are, according to Macaulay, perjurors, are disbelieved. Last year, a Bengali Deputy Magistrate, Babu Sasibhusan Basu, acted for some time as Subdivisional Officer of Jhenida. In a certain decision of his he remarked:—"I do not think they (Mr. Lydiard and his witness) can perjure themselves on such a glaring point." Whilst referring to the evidence given by the raiyats he made use of expressions like the following:—"This is a pure lie." "It is a mere plea." "This is not the only lie." "It is of a stereotyped character." Are we liars merely because we are Bengalis? But the sahib's servants too are Bengalis. How are they then accounted incarnations of truth? Mr. Shirreff always tells us "sell me your holdings or you will never have peace." Do we live in the midst of anarchy that Mr. Shirreff should threaten us in this way?

The days of the *Nildarpan* are not yet gone. Even now oppressions take place that would be enough to fill one with horror and consternation. But there is no one who takes care to know of those oppressions or to make them known. We therefore ask the generous Sir Alexander Mackenzie again and again with folded hands:—"Master! protect the poor raiyat who is oppressed and in distress, and you will gain immortal renown."

71. The *Indian Mirror*, observes the *Bangavasi* of the 1st August, writes

The Lieutenant-Governor in the Gaya temple.

that the Lieutenant-Governor did not enter the Gaya temple with shoes on. He only went up to the door of the temple. But that was enough.

The incident has not, of course, in any way affected the sanctity of the temple. It has only proved the meanness of the Gayalis and the Lieutenant-Governor's ignorance of the manners and customs of the people. The worldliness of the Gayalis is lowering them in the estimation of the public.

72. The Lieutenant-Governor, observes the same paper, did not go

The Lieutenant Governor not visiting Jessore.

to Berhampore. The reason was clear. But why has he given up the idea of paying a visit to Jessore? Sir Alexander Mackenzie is against

tamasha in all its forms. Were the Jessore people setting up *tamashas* and is that the reason why the Lieutenant-Governor has given up his intention of going there? The Jessore people, however, have been disappointed. It is very rarely that the Lieutenant-Governor's programme of tour is changed in this way. Is His Honour altering his tour programme to teach a lesson to the people and test their loyalty?

73. In his Pabna speech, observes the same paper, the Lieutenant-

The Lieutenant-Governor's utterances at Pabna and Boalia.

Governor said that he hoped that between him and the people of Bengal there would always prevail feelings of confidence and sympathy, without which

the relations between the Governor and the governed could only be painful to both. These kindly sentiments do credit to the Lieutenant-Governor's heart. If His Honour can establish this mutual confidence and sympathy between the ruler and the ruled, he will earn the gratitude of the people.

In his Boalia speech the Lieutenant-Governor observed as follows:—"It is mainly for the purpose of acquiring this local knowledge, this acquaintance with local wants, local officers and local people, that I undertake these tours." This is, and this ought to be, the sole object of official tours, but how far is this object kept in view by the generality of the officials? If the Lieutenant-Governor can keep this object steadily in his view and make his subordinates, too, keep it steadily in view, he will confer a great boon on the people.

74. Referring to the contribution made by Raja Rajendra Narayan, Rai Bahadur, of Bhowal, for charitable purposes on the occasion of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Dacca, the *Dacca Prakash* of the 2nd August observes that the Lieutenant-Governor ought to enquire if the big folks of

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 1st, 1892.

BANGAVASI.

BANGAVASI.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 2nd, 1892.

Calcutta, who bear the titles of Maharaja and K.C.S.I., can beat the Raja of Bhowal in liberality.

CHINSURA VARTAVAH,
Aug. 2nd, 1896.

75. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 2nd August writes as follows:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

The people of Bengal are very fortunate that they find a just man, like Sir Alexander Mackenzie, on the *musnad* of their province. His fame is spreading everywhere, and at every place he is visiting, the residents are being charmed with his many good qualities. He is conversing with the leading men of every place and asking them questions. Every one has free access to him. Zamindars and other dignified persons have not to wait for three or four hours, and then come away disappointed because His Honour has no time to see them. He is informing himself of the wants of the country, by conversing with such leading people. Sir Alexander dislikes pomp and parade. He has declared that he does not like that money should be wasted on his reception. Why are the people opposed to gubernatorial tours? Simply because such tours lead to a waste of money. Simply because, whether such tours produce their legitimate effect or not, a good deal of money is wasted on dinners, pomp and parade. The example which Sir Alexander Mackenzie has set in this matter should be followed by the Governors of all other Provinces. But he is, despite himself, obliged to receive addresses from Municipalities and District Boards encased in gold caskets. He is not charming people with high sounding and gratifying expressions, nor is he earning their praise by fluent oratory, nor is he gratifying them by artful speech. He is not also securing popularity by hiding his real feelings, and by saying only pleasant things. He is not expressing anger at the references in addresses to bitter newspaper criticisms on his proposed water-tax, but is only explaining how mistaken his critics are, and is inviting everybody to repose confidence in him. The Lieutenant-Governor is unwilling to go against public opinion. Let everybody mark the difference between Sir Charles Elliott and Sir Alexander Mackenzie. We expect that our days will be as happy under Sir Alexander Mackenzie as they were miserable under Sir Charles Elliott.

DACCA GAZETTE
Aug. 3rd, 1896.

76. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 3rd August takes the Dacca authorities to task for not putting up a shed on the river bank, where the gentlemen invited to receive the Lieutenant-Governor could wait under the strong sun.

The Magistrate should enquire how the large sum which was raised by the District Board was spent, and why a shed was not built. What good have the Dacca people derived from the large sum of money which has been spent on the reception? What has His Honour done to remove their wants and grievances? So far as one can see, he has done nothing which can excite any hopes in the public mind. Like Caesar, he "came, saw, and conquered." His censure of the Municipal Chairman and Commissioners struck everybody dumb.

It is undeniable, however, that Sir Alexander Mackenzie's tour is producing some very beneficial results. He is not a fault-finding Lieutenant-Governor, like his predecessor; he wishes to know the wants and grievances of the people, and to establish good feeling between the ruler and the ruled. He has been encouraging school-boys and, when necessary, reprimanding them for their want of discipline. In the course of his inspection of the Dacca Imperial Seminary, he was so much pleased with a picture drawn by a Hindu widow, that he made much enquiry regarding her. Whether inspecting the jail, the hospital, the offices or the clubs, His Honour was kind to all. The advice he gave to the Musalmans of Dacca, who wanted a Musalman Munsif at the station, was worthy of a Ruler. It would have done anybody's heart good to see His Honour's delight at hearing the music at the Northbrook Hall and to see him beat time to the music of the children.

DACCA GAZETTE.

77. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Dacca Municipal address affair.

Who is to blame for the Address scandal in the Dacca Municipality? So far as we can judge, the blame rests with the Chairman. The Chairman may have differences with the Commissioners in very important matters. But was there any difference of opinion as to the presentation of an address to the Lieutenant-Governor? Certainly not. Why then was not a special meeting of the Commissioners convened to consider the draft address, and a committee appointed to

make the arrangements for the Lieutenant-Governor's reception ? The fact is, that the present Chairman loves to do things in his own way, and did not, therefore, consider it necessary either to consult the Commissioners, or proceed in the regular way.

The Lieutenant-Governor did not go to the bottom of the affair, and, therefore, blamed both the Chairman and the Commissioners. He has power, and he can censure, but no one would have had anything to say if His Honour's censure had been given, after a careful consideration of the whole affair. He ought not to have been led away by hearsay.

It is now for the Government to decide what is to be done under the circumstances. The Commissioners have done their duty by sending in their resignation.

78. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 3rd August has the fol-

The Lieutenant-Governor at lowing :—

Dacca. In his reply to the address of the Dacca District Board, the Lieutenant-Governor disapproved the idea of opening a railway to Sivalay. In a district like Dacca, where there was thorough water communication, there was no need of a railway. The remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor require elucidation. The railway in this country is solely meant for the furtherance of trade and commerce. In Dacca, river communication and steamer service fully meet the demands of trade, and there has been consequently no need of railway communication there. This argument, however, is put forth only when a railway has to be constructed at the cost of the Government or the District Board. For, otherwise, the East Indian Railway would not have been permitted to construct a line from Hooghly on the bank of the Bhagirathi, when there is an efficient steamer service in that river.

In his reply to the Musalman address the Lieutenant-Governor repeated, with a little variation, what he had said in other places. This change in his tone was perhaps due to an impression that his former speeches had dissatisfied the Musalman community.

Owing to dissension and quarrels in the Dacca Municipality, no address was presented to the Lieutenant-Governor by that body. This naturally offended His Honour, not because no address was presented to him, but because an important Municipality, like that of Dacca, studiously neglected to present an address to the Ruler of the province. His Honour jokingly observed that this did not imply any peculiar demerit on his part in the eye of the Dacca Municipality. The conduct of the Commissioners was a proof of their demerit and worthlessness. It is not known whether, in this matter, the Chairman or the Commissioners of the Dacca Municipality are to blame. For the dissension in the Municipality, however, the Commissioners and, much more their Chairman are to blame. They have proved themselves unworthy of Local Self-Government, of the right of election. The Lieutenant-Governor very pertinently observed that "the very first principle of Local Self-Government implied that one man or one section of the community should not dictate to others what they were to say or do, but implied and necessarily assumed that all parties sunk their private differences in working together for the good of the public they represented."

79. The same paper writes as follows :—

Mr. Westmacott and the Maha- raja of Krishnagar. We were mortified to learn that lately the Maharaja of Krishnagar was insulted by Mr. Westmacott, on going to pay a visit to the latter. It was certainly a matter of great regret to learn that the paid Commissioner of the Presidency Division purposely insulted a descendant of Maharaja Krishna Chundra, to whose help and co-operation the English nation owe their Empire in India. Whatever might have been done during Sir Charles Elliott's rule, it would be strange to see such misconduct on the part of an official go unpunished during the administration of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Some of the native papers say that the Maharaja ought not to have gone to pay a visit to the Commissioner. This is impossible. It has become a matter not only of etiquette, but also of duty with the scions of the great aristocratic families in this country to pay their respects to officials of rank and position, and it ought to be the duty of the latter to show their aristocratic visitors due respect in turn. Babu Hariprasad Mukharji, a member of the Krishnagar Bar, has contradicted the statement

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,

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DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

about Mr. Westmacott's treatment of the Maharaja. He says that the Commissioner was suddenly taken ill, and informed the Maharaja of his illness, through his orderly, with due respect. This does not, however, completely clear the Commissioner in the eye of the public. The Maharaja went personally to Mr. Westmacott, and he ought to have personally conveyed to him the news of his illness. The Commissioner was not taken seriously ill all of a sudden, and he might and should have sent an intimation to the Maharaja at his residence. The Lieutenant-Governor should demand an explanation from Mr. Westmacott, at least, in private.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 3rd, 1896.

80. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 3rd August, writes as follows:—

The relations between the ruler and the ruled. We sincerely wish that there may exist feelings of confidence and sympathy between Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the people of Bengal. But the very fact that the Lieutenant-Governor thought it necessary to refer to the subject in his Pabna speech, proves that the relations between the Sovereign and the people have not been what they ought to be. What is the cause of this? The people themselves cannot be blamed; for they have never failed in their duty and loyalty towards the Sovereign. Nor can the Sovereign be blamed, for Her Majesty never comes in actual contact with her Indian people. The fact is that the entire blame of the strained relation between the ruler and the ruled lies with the officials. It is they who, by their arbitrary conduct, oppression and distrust, invidious distinction between whitemen and natives, policy of setting class against class, and grinding taxation, have made the people lose all sympathy with the ruler. If the people's loyalty has suffered on that account, it is not the people themselves who can be found fault with. Sir Alexander Mackenzie will be able to establish good feeling between the ruler and the ruled only if he succeeds in setting the officials right.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-VAD,
June 3rd, 1896.
SAMVADVAHAKA,
June 4th, 1896.
URIYA AND NAVASAM-VAD,
June 10th, 1896.
UTKALDIPAKA,
June 13th, 1896.

SAMVADVAHAKA,
June 4th, 1896.

81. The *Uriya and Narasamval* of the 3rd June and the *Samvadvahika* of the 4th June report cholera in the Makalpur, Bateswar, Nalamganj and Sanhat Bazars of the Balasore town. A correspondent of the same paper of the 10th June, states that 70 men died of cholera in Maitapur, in pargana Balikhand, in district Balasore, and that the same disease is raging virulently in the Basta thana of that district.

82. The *Utkaldipika* of the 13th June is sorry to learn that the local police of Puri made an attempt to prosecute, under the Police Act, an amateur cooly, who in company with a large number of such coolies, was engaged in de-watering and repairing the sacred Markandeya tank of that town, and who was obliged to attend a call of nature in a place near the tank. This incident, due to the imprudence of the local Police, so disheartened the whole body of workers that they left the tank in a body, and as they were working *gratis*, the loss to the Hindu religious public was great. It is to be added that the number of such workmen was about 2,000 and that they were mostly respectable men of *Koondaibent Sahi* in the Puri town, who were induced to accept cooly-work by a strong religious feeling.

83. The *Samvadvahika* of the 4th June is opposed to that provision of the Partition of Estates Bill. Partition Bill, which lays down that estates bearing sadar jama (revenue) of less than one hundred rupees will not be in a position to apply for partition. The writer is of opinion that this will be a constant source of trouble and oppression to petty landlords, who will be placed at the mercy of their co-sharers, owning larger shares, and having therefore greater influence over common tenants, and that such landlords will not be, in certain cases, able to realize their rents at all.

84. The same paper looks upon that proposal of Government with favour Improvement and treatment of cattle by Local Self-Government which aims at the improvement of country cattle and their treatment in cases of sickness, and requests the Municipalities and District Boards to encourage any scheme or undertaking that has that object in view.

85. The *Utkaldipika* of the 6th June is strongly of opinion that, unless pastures or grazing lands are set apart and taken care of, no amount of attention to cattle will produce the desired result. The writer therefore suggests that advantage should be taken of the

Legislative provision for pasture land.

resolution of Government to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, to add a section to the effect that all available pasture in any district may vest in the District Board of that district, who will take care to see that such lands are not used in other ways.

86. The same paper is clearly of opinion that, owing to the irregularity of the steamer plying between Balasore and Cuttack, the inconvenience to passengers has become so great and intolerable that the authorities concerned ought to take decisive steps to remove the same at once.

The steamer service between Balasore and Cuttack.

87. The *Utkaldipika* of the 13th June is sorry to learn that the affairs of the Jagannath temple in Puri are not properly managed, and hopes that the Superintendent of the temple will make no delay in looking after his own interest, which is also the interest of the temple.

The management of the Puri temple.

88. Referring to the assessment in the Cuttack khas mahal, the same paper points out that the procedure adopted in securing the signatures of tenants in *jamabandi* papers was wily and unbecoming, for they were told at first that they would be required to pay particular

amounts as their *jama*, and these amounts were generally double or treble their present *jamas*. The tenants naturally objected and made representations. The Settlement Officer then reduced the proposed *jama* a little, and asked the tenants to sign their names against the reduced *jama*, telling them distinctly that if they did not sign their names, they would not be entitled to the benefit of the contemplated reduction. The tenants were thus frightened into submission, and they thought it better to yield, than to waste money in litigation. It was thus that the *jamabandi* of the Cuttack khas mahal was finished quietly and arbitrarily without the adoption of any principle of equity, the only principle adopted being to increase the *jama* of the tenant anyhow, and to secure his consent to the same. The result of the procedure has been that the tenants of the Cuttack khas mahal are in great discontent, and are made to believe that the khas mahal lands are only intended for the rich, and that the poor have no chance against the greedy and artful policy of Government. The writer concludes his article with an expression of regret that the *jamabandi* of the Cuttack khas mahal is not in any way fair.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 8th August 1896.

UTKALDIPAKA,
June 6th, 1896.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

